

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Serial No. 09/811,510
Attorney Docket No.010314

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended herein. Support for the amendments is set forth below. Applicants' representatives thank Ex. Tran for the courtesies extended to the undersigned attorney during the interview conducted on December 1, 2005. Applicants' separate record of the substance of that interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants' Response to the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1 and 8 are rejected as being incomplete for omitting essential steps and elements, such omissions are considered to amount to a gap between the steps and elements.

The Office Action maintains that the missing elements are the relationship between the tandem control unit so that the tandem control unit is informed of the presence of print data at the printers, and the controlling print data at the printers. In response thereto, as discussed in the course of the interview, applicants have amended the claims to more distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Applicants have included language to specifically state that there is an operational connection between the tandem control unit and the host unit.

Applicants have included the language to specify that the tandem control unit controls the operations of the plurality of printers in response to the supplying of print data from the host unit.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Serial No. 09/811,510
Attorney Docket No.010314

These amendments are supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 9, lines 2-3 and 10-15; page 10, lines 21-22 and Fig. 2 (disclosure of a host interface 24); and, paragraph 15, line 31 to page 17, line 25 and Fig. 8 (disclosure of command interaction between host unit and tandem unit, MA).

Further, as requested by the Examiner during the interview in regard to claim 1, applicants have restructured the claim in order to more precisely define the limitations therein.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Michael J. Caridi
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 56,171
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

MJC/mra